



Able-Bodied Adults without
Dependents (ABAWDs)

Program Overview

February 2, 2016



The Workforce Development Oversight Committee

David Locklear, Chief

Department of Health and Human Services

**Division of Social Services, Economic and Family
Services**



ABAWD Background

- The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996
- Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)
- The goal of the ABAWD provisions is to encourage FNS participants who are fit to work to become more self-sufficient through employment.



North Carolina ABAWD Waiver History

2008 - National economy collapsed and unemployment spiked:
USDA waived the ABAWD regulation

2014 - USDA announced an end to the blanket ABAWD.

2015 - NC loses waiver for 23 counties.

2015 - House Bill # 318 prohibited further requests for extensions of
the ABAWD waiver.

2016 - ABAWD implementation – 23 counties effective January 1, 2016
77 counties effective July 1, 2016



Who is an ABAWD?

- Age 18-49
- Fit for employment
- Does not have a minor (under age 18) included in their FNS benefits



ABAWD Exemptions

- Pregnant
- Caring for an incapacitated person
- Chronic Homelessness
- Alcohol / Drug Addiction causing ABAWD to be unfit to work
- Participating in Work First Employment Services
- Receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB)
- Participating in Refugee Cash Assistance Work program
- In school at least half time



ABAWD Work Requirements

Participate in a Qualifying Activity
20 hours per week

- Work
- Volunteer at an approved public or private agency
- Participate in a Work Program
- Participate in an Employment and Training Program
- Combination of the activities listed above



Time Limits for ABAWD

January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018

- An ABAWD can only receive FNS benefits for (3) three months in a set 36 month period UNLESS:
 - The individual complies with ABAWD work requirements, or
 - The individual is exempt from ABAWD



Regaining Eligibility

- The ABAWD may regain eligibility by meeting a work requirement such as working, volunteering or participating in work program, for 80 hours in a 30 day period.
- The ABAWD can then receive an additional (3) three consecutive months of FNS benefits.



ABAWD Waiver Ended

January 1, 2016

ALAMANCE	CATAWBA	FORSYTH	HENDERSON	NEW HANOVER	WAKE
ALEXANDER	DAVIDSON	GASTON	IREDELL	ORANGE	WATAUGA
BUNCOMBE	DAVIE	GUILFORD	LINCOLN	RANDOLPH	YADKIN
CABARRUS	DURHAM	HAYWOOD	MECKLENBURG	UNION	



ABAWD Statistics

9/1/2015

See Handout # 1 for Specific County Statistics

	# of Active ABAWDs	# of ABAWDs with Earned Income
Non-Waived County Totals	54,464	41,362
Waived County Totals	54,564	41,123
State Totals	109,028	82,485



ABAWD Action Items

- Letter to all Counties concerning ABAWD implementation
(Handout # 2)
- Notice to FNS ABAWDs in 23 counties no longer under ABAWD waiver
(Handout # 3)
- Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents Desk Reference
(Handout # 4)



ABAWD Action Items

County ABAWD Implementation and Outreach

- Reviewed cases that were identified as ABAWDs and ensured correct coding
- Community College to combine Job Club program with a Career Readiness Certification
- Contacted Employers for volunteer needs and develop list to be given to ABAWDs
- ABAWDS with criminal records will be assisted by a Former Offender Specialist
- Identified and contacted ABAWD to discuss policy and possible exemptions



FNS Employment & Training Counties

	Brunswick Durham Granville Johnston New Hanover Pitt	Partners with Division of Workforce Solutions local Career Centers as the E&T Service Provider
	Orange	TANF Employment Specialists will deliver FNS E&T Services
	Buncombe	Partner with Goodwill Industries to deliver FNS E&T Services
	Mecklenburg	Partner with Goodwill Industries, Urban League and MeckWorks to deliver FNS E & T Services



Employment & Training Program

- Expansion of E&T

Alamance, Cherokee, Cleveland, Craven,
Forsyth, Guildford, Henderson,
Hoke, Union and Warren



Center of Excellence (SNAP to Skills)

- North Carolina DHHS selected by USDA to participate in Pilot
- SNAP to Skills
- Purpose
- The COE will provide intensive technical assistance from March 2016 through September, 2017.



Next Steps

- July 1, 2016, the remaining 77 counties will implement ABAWD policy.
- Training and communication with Counties.
- Continue to communicate with USDA and adhere to the program mandates.
- Monitor the impact of ABAWD implementation



Contact Information

David Locklear

(919) 527-6311 (office)

(919) 334-1265 (fax)

David.Locklear@dhhs.nc.gov

